

Ibanag language

The **Ibanag language** (also *Ybanag* or *Ibanak*) is an Austronesian language spoken by up to 500,000 speakers, most particularly by the Ibanag people, in the Philippines, in the northeastern provinces of Isabela and Cagayan, especially in Tuguegarao, Solana, Abulug, Cabagan, and Ilagan and with overseas immigrants in countries located in the Middle East, United Kingdom and the United States. Most of the speakers can also speak Ilocano, the lingua franca of northern Luzon island. The name Ibanag comes from the prefix "I" which means "people of", and "bannag", meaning river. It is closely related to Gaddang, Itawis, Agtá, Atta, Yogad, Isneg, and Malaweg.

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Ibanag	
Ybanag, Ibanak	
Native to	Philippines
Region	Northern Luzon
Ethnicity	Ibanag
Native speakers	(500,000 cited 1990) ^[1]
Language family	Austronesian <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Malayo-Polynesian ▪ Philippine ▪ Northern Luzon ▪ Cagayan Valley ▪ Ibanag
Official status	
Official language in	Regional language in the Philippines
Regulated by	Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	ibg
Glottolog	iban1267 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/iban1267) ^[2]
Linguasphere	31-CCB-a (http://linguasphere.info/?page=linguascale&linguacode=31-CCB-a)

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Areas where Ibanag is spoken according to Ethnologue

Use and current status

As of Oct. 2012, "revival of the Ibanag culture is part of the Mother-Tongue Based (MTB) program of the [Philippine] government which seeks to preserve indigenous cultures, including its languages, for generations to come. Ibanag is one of the MTB languages now taught in Philippine schools," and two current stage plays, "Zininaga Ta Bannag (Heritage of the River)" and "Why Women Wash the Dishes" are being performed in the Ibanag language.^[3]

Phonology

Vowels

- A (ah) E (eh) I (ee) O (oh) U (ooh) Y (ee)

Monophthongization of diphthongs is observable in Ibanag. For example, the words *umay* (to go), *balay* (house) or *aggaw* (day) are sometimes pronounced as *ume*, *bale*, and *aggo* respectively.

Consonants

Ibanag is one of the Philippine languages which are included in the [ɾ]-[d] allophony.

Ibanag features phonemes that are not present in many related Philippine languages; phonemes unique to Ibanag compared to its sister languages include [f] as in *innafi*, "rice", [v] as in *bavi*, "pig", [z] as in *kazzing*, "goat" and [dʒ] as in *madjan*, "maid".

Ibanag features gemination:

- *gaddua* [gad' dwa] (half)
- *mappazzi* [mappaz' zi] (to squeeze or squeezing)

Table of consonant phonemes of Ibanag

	<u>Bilabial</u>		<u>Labio-Dental</u>		<u>Alveolar</u>		<u>Post-alveolar</u>		<u>Palatal</u>	<u>Velar</u>	<u>Glottal</u>
<u>Nasal</u>	m		n				ŋ		ɳ		
<u>Stop</u>	p	b			t	d			k	g	?
<u>Fricative</u>			f	v	s	z	ʃ				h
<u>Affricate</u>							tʃ	dʒ			
<u>Tap</u>					r ~ r						
<u>Approximant</u>					l				j	w	

Classification

Similar to more known languages in the Philippines such as Cebuano and Tagalog, Ibanag is a Philippine language within the Austronesian language family. On the other hand, it belongs to the Northern Philippine languages subgroup where related yet larger Ilokano and Pangasinan also fall under.

Dialects

Since Ibanag is spoken in various areas of Northeastern Region of the Philippines (namely within Isabela and Cagayan), there are also minor differences in the way that it is spoken in these areas. Ibanag spoken in Tuguegarao is known to be the standard dialect. And other native Ibanag speakers usually distinguish if the speaker is from Tuguegarao City with the variation of their pronunciation and accent. Most who have adapted the urban dialects of Ibanag tend to have a Hispanic accent.

In Tuguegarao, before the Spaniards came, the language was Irraya (an almost extinct Gaddang dialect). Spaniards introduced Ibanag to the city from Lal-lo (formerly the city of Nueva Segovia) and made the language as the lingua franca of the northeastern Philippines. But with the introduction of Ilocano settlers, Ilocano has become the new lingua franca since the late 20th Century.^{[4][5]}

Cauayan speakers and Ilagan speakers in Isabela have a hard accent as opposed to the Tuguegarao Ibanag that sounded Hispanic. But, native speakers of Northern Cagayan have a harder accent.

For example, Ibanags from towns in northern Cagayan, which includes Abulug, Aparri, Camalaniugan, Pamplona and Lallo, tend to replace their "p's" with more "f's".^[6] Also, certain Ibanag words differ from these areas as opposed to the Tuguegarao and Isabela Ibanag.

Examples:

- Mapatu - mafatu (hot)
- paggipayan - faggifayan (a place to put)
- dupo - dufo (banana)

Tuguegarao Ibanag may be considered as the standard, however, Northern Cagayan Ibanag may be the one closest to the ancient Pre-Hispanic Ibanag existent prior to the spread of the language throughout the province, as Northern Cagayan was the original Ibanag home territory. On the other hand, Tuguegarao Ibanag, besides having Spanish influences may have acquired elements from nearby Itawis. At the same time, Isabela Ibanag may have acquired elements from the original Gaddang language predominant in the province.

<u>Tuguegarao Ibanag</u>	<u>Isabela Ibanag</u>	<u>English</u>	<u>Tagalog</u>
Ari ka nga kuman ta illuk.	Kammu nga kumang tu illug.	Don't eat eggs.	Huwag kang kumain ng itlog.

Archaic Ibanag

Some words used in the present such as *innafi* or rice, *bavi* or pig, *afi* or fire, are listed in Spanish texts as *innafuy*, *bavuy*, and *afuy* respectively. Also, the Ibanag term for the number one, *tadday*, was once used interchangeably with the word *itte*, which is no longer used apparently by modern speakers of the language.^{[7][8]}

Grammar

Orthography

There are two ways that Ibanag can be written. In older texts, the "Spanish style" is often used. This is where ⟨c⟩, and ⟨qu⟩ are used in representing /k/, and words that end with a glottal stop are added with "-c" after the word.^[9]

Example 1: Quiminac cami tab bavi - We ate pork.

Example 2: Napannu tac cunam y langui-c. - The sky is full of clouds.

The other way of writing Ibanag is the new and simplified way that tends to be more phonetic. This modern spelling system is consistent with that of the Filipino language and other languages such as Bisaya and Ilokano. Moreover, silent letters are omitted. This orthography is the one being adopted for use in public schools for the purpose of the Department of Education's Mother Tongue-Based Multilingual Education policy in Ibanag-speaking areas and is prescribed by the Ibanag Heritage Foundation, Inc.^{[10][11][12]}

Example 1: Kiminak kami tu bavi - We ate pork.

Example 2: Napannu tu kunam i langi. - The sky is full of clouds.

Nouns

Personal pronouns

- Independent pronouns
- I - Sakan, Sakang (Isabela), So'
- You - Sikaw, siko (Isabela)
- He, She, It - Yayya
- We (inclusive) - Sittam, sittang (Isabela)
- We (exclusive) - Sikami
- You (plural/polite) - Sikamu
- They - Ira

	Pronoun	Possessive pronouns forms	Example of root word	Example of derived word(s)
First person	Sakan, Sakang (Isabela), So' (I)	-ku, -' when subject ends with a vowel or diphthong	<i>kazzing</i> (goat) <i>lima</i> (hand)	<i>kazzing ku</i> (my goat) <i>lima'</i> (my hand)
	Sikami (Exclusive, Our), Sittam/sittang (Isabela) (Inclusive, Our)	-mi, -tam	<i>libru</i> (book)	<i>libru mi</i> (our book), <i>libru tam</i> (our book)
Second person	Sikaw (you, singular)	-mu, -m	<i>mejas</i> (socks) <i>libru</i> (book)	<i>mejas mu</i> (your socks) <i>librum</i> (your book)
	Sikamu (you(plural/polite))	-nu	<i>Bandera</i> (flag)	<i>Bandera nu</i> (your flag)
Third person	Yayya, yatun (he, she, it)	-na	<i>manu'</i> (chicken)	<i>manu' na</i> (his, her, its chicken)
	Ira (they)	-da	<i>itubang</i> (chair)	<i>itubang da</i> (their chair)

Sakan/So'

- I/Me: There are many ways to say I or me in Ibanag. The language is agglutinative. Thus most of the time pronouns are attached to verbs. There are at least 4 ways to indicate the pronoun "I".
- I am eating - Kuman na' = Kuman (to eat) and na' (I). Sometimes, nga' is used instead of na'.
- I gave him some food - Neddak ku yayya ta makan. = Neddan (to give) ku (I).
- I will be the one to go - So' laman ngana y ume = So' (I)
- I split it in half - Ginaddwa' = Ginaddwa (to split in half) ' (I) Here the glottal stop on the sentence indicates "I". Without the glottal stop, the sentence would become incomplete and would otherwise not make any sense.

Sikaw

- You: There are also a couple of ways to indicate you.
- (You) go outside - Mallawak ka - Mallawan (to go) and ka (you)
- You give - Iddammu - Iddan (to give/to put) and mu (you)

Yayya

- He/She/It: As with the other pronouns there are a couple of ways to say this, but usually people use "na".
- He lost it: - Nawawan na (Nawawan) lost (na) he/she/it (NOTE: without the glottal stop "na" can mean he she or it.)

Sittam

- We: Often "tam" or "tang" is attached at the end of the verb or noun. Sittam/sittang is We, when you want to include the person being spoken to.
- Let's go - Tam ngana! / Ettang ngana (Isabela)! or Ume tam!

Sikami

- We: When we want to exclude the person being spoken to, we use Sikami. In this case, you only attach "mi" to the end of the verb, adjective or noun.
- Ume mi nga innan - We are going to look. Ume (to go) Mi (we)
- Nabattug kami - We are full (as in food). Nabattug (full) kami (we, just us not you)
- Ibanag kami - We are Ibanags

Sikamu

- You: this is when we refer to more than one person being spoken to. Often "nu" or "kamu" is used.
- Apannu yayya! - Go get him/her - Apan (to get) nu(you plural)
- Umine kamu tari? - You went there? - Umine (went) kamu (you)

Ira

- They: Ira. Ira is seldom used unless emphasizing that it is "them". Instead of ira, the word "da" is used.
- Ginatang da y bale' - They bought my house. Ginatang (bought) da (they)

Possessive pronouns

"Kua" is the root word that identifies something as belonging to someone. Often "Ku" is added before "Kua" to emphasize this. Note that this is only possible with "Mine" and "Yours" but not with other possessive pronouns.

Kukua' yatun - That IS Mine.

- My, mine - ku, kua', kukua'
- Your, Yours - -m, mu, kuam, kukuam
- His, Her, Its - na, kuana
- Our, ours (inclusive) - tam, kuatam
- Our, ours (exclusive) - mi, kuami
- Your, Yours - nu, kuanu
- Their, Theirs - da, kuada
- My toy - Gaggayam
- Your gift - Regalum
- Her earring - Aritu' na
- Our land - Davvut tam
- Our house - Balay mi
- Your car - Coche nu
- Their dog - Kitu da
- This is mine - Kua' yaw.
- This is hers/his- Kukua/kua na yaw.
- That is yours - Kuam yatun.
- That is hers - Kuana yari.

Demonstrative pronouns

- This - Yaw or Ye or Yawe

- That (item by person being spoken to) - Yatun or Yane (Isabela)
- That (far from both speaker and person being spoken to) - Yari or Yore
- That (sometimes used for objects that are absent or in the past) - Yuri
- This dog - Ye kitu
- That cat - Yane kitaw
- That carabao - Yari nuang
- That day - Yuri aggaw

In order to emphasize or stress the distance or time, the stress on the word falls on the first syllable except for "yatun".

I.e. Yatun davvun - That land

Other ways that words are emphasized are by using Locatives.

- THIS house (here) - Ye balay taw
- That girl there - Yatun babay tatum
- That man over there - Yari lalaki tari
- That old lady a long time ago - Yuri bako' turi*

With turi the stress on "tu" is often lengthened to emphasize the distance and time that has passed.

- Tadday nga aggaw - Isang araw
- Tadday vulan - Isang buwan
- Tadday nga dagun/ragun - Isang taon

Locatives

- Here - Taw or Tawe
- There - Tatum (by person being spoken to)
- There - Tari (far from both)
- There - Turi (absent, past time and/or location)

Enclitic particles

Interrogative Words

- What?- Anni?
- When?- Nikanni?
- Where?- Sitaw?
- Who?- Sinni?
- Why?- Ngatta?
- How?- Kunnasi?
- How much? - Piga?

Each of the doubled consonants must be pronounced separately.

I.E. Anni? - "An ni"

- Anni kuammu? - What are you doing?

- Kanni labbe' mu? - When did you arrive?
- Sitaw angayat tam? - Where are we going?
- Sinni nanga' ta affefec ku? - Who took my fan?
- Ngatta nga ari ka kuman? - Why are you not eating?
- Kunnasim lutuan yatun nu awan tu rekadum? - How are you going to cook that if you don't have the ingredients?
- Piga yaw? Piga yatun? - How much is this? How much is that?

Verbs

Ibanag verbs are not conjugated in the same manner that most Indo-European languages are. They are conjugated based on the tense of the word.

As with many other Malayo-Polynesian languages, there is no verb for "to be". However this is sometimes compensated by using the verb for "to have".

Infinitive and present tense

Many times, the infinitive form is the same as the present tense.

- Egga - There is/ to have
- Kuman - To eat/ eat
- Minum - To drink/ drink
- Mawag- To need/ need
- Kaya' - To want/ want, To like/ like
- Umay - To go/ go, To come/ com
- Manaki' - To not want/ not want, To not like/ not like
- I am here - Egga nga tawe
- Do you eat goat? - Kumak ka tu kazzing?
- Drink this - Inumang mu/inumammu yaw.
- Drink water - Uminum/mininum/mininung ka tu danum/danung.
- You need to sleep - Mawag mu makkaturug.

Past tense

There are different ways to form the past tense. Here are a few common ways.

- Nilutu/ Nallutu - cooked
- Ginappo' - cut
- Inusi' - cut (hair)
- Inirayyu - placed far away
- Ginatang - bought
- We cooked dinengdeng - Nallutu kami tu dinengdeng
- We cooked the pig - Nilutu mi yari bavi. (Y become yari assuming the pig itself is not present since it was already cooked)
- They cut my hair - Inusi' da y vu' ku
- I got my hair cut - Nappa usi' na' tu vu' ku
- They placed him far away - Inirayyu da yayya.

- I bought you this cow - Ginatang ku yaw baka para nikaw/niko.

Future tense

Again there are a couple of ways of forming future tense. One is by the use of a helping word like "to go". Sometimes the present tense can indicate future depending on the context.

- Apam mi ngana yayya - We are going to pick him up.
- (Isabela) Sonu manannwang ka na gumatang tu lichon or Sonu bibbinnay ka na matang tu lichon
- Go buy lechon later.

Sangaw and Sangawe

- Sangaw ngana! - later on. (Sangawe not used in Tuguegarao)
- Sangawe ngana! - Do it now. (Isabela)
- Sonu mangananwan! Or Sonu bibbinnay- later on.

Structure

Syntax and word order

Ibanag sentence structure often follows the " Verb + Subject + Object " pattern.

Example: Nellawan ni Andoy y kitu. - Andoy took out the dog.

Adjectives often follow the nouns with a marker attached.

Example: Dakal nga balay - Big house.

Simple sentences as opposed to descriptive patterns:

Example:

The house is red - Uzzin y balay

The red house - Uzzin nga balay

Markers

"Y" and "nga" are the two most commonly used markers in Ibanag. They either link adjectives to nouns, or indicate the subject of the sentence.

Examples:

- Nagallu nga galo' - Loud laughter. Nagallu indicates loud and the "nga" links it to laughter.
- Atannang y ana' mu - Your child is tall. With the lack of the verb to be and a switched syntax, "Y" indicates that "your child" is the subject.

"Tu" is another marker that is used, but is not very simple to explain. Often it is seen in conjunction with the word "Awan" meaning "nothing or none".

Example:

- Awan tu makan - Wala nang pagkain - There is nothing to eat. Here, "tu" links awan (none) and makan (food). tu - it is like "nang" in Tagalog

"**Ta**" is yet another marker used. ta - is like "sa" in Tagalog

Example:

- Maggangwa ka ta bagu nga silla - Gagawa ka ng bagong upuan. Make a new chair. (Here both "nga" and "ta" are used)

"Tu" and "Ta" in the Isabela Dialect

"**Ta**" - is used to refer place (Isabela) This is also used in Tuguegarao

Example: Minay kami ta Tuguegarao - We went to Tuguegarao.

"**Tu**" - is used to refer on things

Example: Kiminang kami tu bavi (Isabela)- We ate pork.

Consonant mutation

Ibanag verbs that end in "n" lose the last consonant, which is replaced by the first consonant of the succeeding word. However, when the succeeding word starts with a vowel or another "n", the last "n" is not affected.

Examples:

- Apan mu yari libru.

Correct = Apam mu yari libru - Go get the book.

- Nasingan ku y yama na.

Correct = Nasingak ku y yama na - I saw his father.

The marker "ta" and the preposition "na" (not the pronoun) sometimes, depending also on the dialect, acquires the first consonant of the succeeding word.

- Ta likuk/likug na balay

Tal likuk nab balay - at the back of the house

- Ta utun - On top. Notice that "ta" is succeeded by "utun" which starts with a vowel.

Samples

Proverbs

This is an example of an Ibanag proverb, that is also known throughout the archipelago.

Y tolay nga/tu ari nga/amme na mallipay ta pinaggafuanan na ay ari nga/amme na makadde ta angayanan na.* (*Isabela)

Ang taong Hindi marunong lumingon sa pinanggalingan ay Hindi makakarating sa paroroonan.

Translated to: **He who does not look back into his past, cannot reach his destination.**

Ta langi awan tu binarayang, yatun ta utun na davyun ittam minum.

Sa langit walang alak, kaya sa ibabaw ng lupa dapat tayo'y lumaklak.

Translated to: **In heaven there is no beer, that's why we drink it here.**

Ari mu kagian nga piyyo ngana y illuk tapenu ari nga magivung (Tuguegarao).

Ammeng kagim tu piyyo ngana y illug tapenu ari nga magivung (Isabela).

Huwag mong sabihing sisiw na ang itlog para Hindi ito maging bugok, .

Translated to: **Never call an egg a chick, so that it will not become rotten.**

Cagayan provincial anthem

*Cagayan, Davvun nga kakastan niakan,
Egga ka laran nakuan ta piam,
Nu kuruk tu maparrayyu ka niakan,
Ariat ta ka vuluvvuga nga kattamman.*

*Cagayan, Makemmemmi ka nga innan.
Cagayan, Awan tu kagittam.
Nu anni paga y kasta na davyun a karuan
Egga ka la ta futu' nga ideddukan.*

Translation: *Cagayan, a beautiful land to me,
You have done great things,
If it were true that you will be away from me,
I will not intently forget you.*

*Cagayan, I adore looking at you,
Cagayan, you are incomparable.
Even if other lands are beautiful,
You are in my heart to be loved.*

The direct translation done in here is different from the English Version of the Cagayan Provincial Anthem.

Vocabulary

Loan words

- Many words in Ibanag are of Spanish origin. The language is infused with Spanish words that are often not seen or heard in any of the other Philippine languages.
- Eyeglasses - Anchuparra/ Anteojos
- Plants - Masetas

- Store - Chenda (from Tienda)
- Door - Puerta
- Toilet - Kasilyas
- Quickly, immediately - Insigida (from "en seguida")

Simple greetings

- Good morning - Dios nikamu ta umma (others say "Mapia nga umma")
- Good afternoon - Dios nikamu ta fugak (others say "Mapia nga fugak")
- Good evening/night - Dios nikamu ta gabi (others say "Mapia nga gabi")
- How are you? - Kunnasi ka?
- I'm fine/good and you? - Mapia so' gapa, sikaw?
- I'm just fine, thank God - Mapia so' gapa, mabbalo' ta Afu
- Thank you - Mabbalo'
- Where are you going? - Sitaw y angayammu?
- I'm going to... - Umay na' ta...
- What are you doing? - Anni kukuam mu?
- Nothing in particular. - Awan, maski anni laman.
- Please come in. - Tullung kamu, Maddulo kamu or Mattalung kamu.
- Long time no see. - Nabayag taka nga ari nasingan.

Numbers

- 0-awan
- 1-tadday
- 2-duwa
- 3-tallu
- 4-appa'
- 5-lima
- 6-annam
- 7-pitu
- 8-walu
- 9-siyam
- 10-mafulu
- 11-karatadday/onse
- 12-karaduwa/dose
- 13-karatallu/trese
- 14-karappa/katorse
- 15-karalima/kinse
- 20-duwafulu/beinte
- 100-magatu
- 200-duwa gatu
- 500-lima gatu
- 1000-marivu
- 2000-duwa rivu

Sentences

Ibanag	Tagalog	English
Anni y kinnam mu ganguri?	Ano ang kinain mo kanina?	What did you eat?
Anni y kinnan nu?	Ano ang kinain ninyo?	What did you,(all) eat?
Anni y kanakanam mu?	Ano ang kinakain mo?	What are you eating?
Anni y kankanam mu sangaw?	Ano ang kinakain mo ngayon?	What are you eating now?
Kuman ittam sangaw nu pallabbe na.	Kakain tayo pagdating niya.	We will eat when he/she comes.
Maddaguk kami kuman kustu limibbe yayya.	Kumakain kami nang dumating siya.	We were eating when he came.
Nakakak kami nakwang nu minilubbe yayya..	Nakakain sana kami kung dumating siya.	We would have eaten I if he had arrived.
Natturukí y gattó.	Sumirit ang gatas.	The milk shot out.
Ari ka nga kuman.	Huweg kang kumain.	Don't eat.
kumak ka ngana!	Kumain ka na!	Eat now!
Kukwa' yatun!	Akin yan!	That's mine!
Iddu taka/ ay-ayatay taka	Mahal kita	I love you

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